

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 754

By Finney R.

A RESOLUTION to designate June 15, 2008, as "World Elder Abuse Day" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, elder abuse and neglect is a societal problem that affects many communities within our State and nation; and

WHEREAS, sadly, the number of abused or neglected elderly continues to increase every year; elder abuse and neglect includes physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and financial abuse and material exploitation, all of which may be committed by one's caregivers, including family, friends, and the employees of hospitals or nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, between one and two million adults over the age of sixty-five have been injured, exploited, or mistreated by someone they depended on for care; furthermore, only one in twenty-three cases is reported in Tennessee due to the fact that a caregiver often completely controls an elder's access to the outside world, finances, meals, and medication; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Vulnerable Adult Coalition is charged with elder abuse awareness, education, and prevention efforts on behalf of all older adults across the State; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to recognize the significant problem of elder abuse and neglect and the effects it has on our State's venerable citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of community and state leadership to raise awareness of elder abuse and neglect and to establish prevention and support mechanisms for the elderly and their families in order to stop the cycle of abuse that harms the lives of those affected; and

WHEREAS, the designation of June 15, 2008, as World Elder Abuse Day is an effort to raise awareness of elder abuse and neglect and to encourage communities throughout our State to create partnerships among social service agencies, religious organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby designate June 15, 2008, as "World Elder Abuse Day" in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to celebrate the accomplishments of Tennessee seniors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy